

# **EXHIBIT A**

**TRANSCRIBED FROM VIDEO RECORDING**

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

NICKOLAS J. BURCH,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

THOMAS DART, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 18 CV 669

Chicago, Illinois

July 27, 2020

10:03 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JEFFREY CUMMINGS, MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**VIDEO APPEARANCES:**

For the Plaintiff:

MS. NICOLE E. KOPINSKI

MR. WALLACE HUA FENG

MS. LAURA MARIE SCHAEFER

Leydig, Voit & Mayer, Ltd.

Suite 4900

Two Prudential Plaza

180 North Stetson Avenue

Chicago, IL 60601

(312) 616- 5646

E-mail: Nkopinski@leydig.com

Wfeng@leydig.com

Lschaefer@leydig.com

**\*\*PLEASE NOTIFY OF INCORRECT SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION\*\***

**NOTE: FAILURE TO SPEAK INTO A MICROPHONE MAY MAKE  
PORTIONS UNINTELLIGIBLE AND INAUDIBLE**

Transcriber:

KATHLEEN M. FENNELL, CSR, RPR, RMR, FCRR

Official Court Reporter

United States District Court

219 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1426

Chicago, Illinois 60604

Telephone: (312) 435-5569

Kathleen\_Fennell@ilnd.uscourts.gov

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

APPEARANCES: (Continued)

For the County  
Defendants:

MR. KEVIN A. THOMAS  
MR. SAMUEL COMI  
MS. MIA BUNTIC  
MS. KHARA COLEMAN  
Cook County State's Attorney's Office  
500 Richard J. Daley Center  
5th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 603-5669  
E-mail: Kevin.thomas@cookcountyil.gov  
Samuel.comi@cookcountyil.gov  
Mia.buntic@cookcountyil.gov  
Khara.coleman@cookcountyil.gov

For the CBM  
Defendants:

MR. RONALD ALAN NORWOOD  
Lewis Rice LLC  
600 Washington Avenue  
Suite 2500  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
(314) 444-7759  
E-mail: Rnorwood@lewisrice.com

1 (Proceedings heard via video recording:)

2 MS. KOPINSKI: -- [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

11:39:03

5 THE COURT: [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 MR. BURCH: [REDACTED]

9 MS. KOPINSKI: [REDACTED]

11:39:18

10 [REDACTED]

11 THE COURT: [REDACTED]

12 Okay. Mr. Thomas, please go ahead.

13 MR. THOMAS: [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

11:39:32

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED].

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

11:40:01

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

11:40:25

25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED].

2 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Kopinski, Mr. Burch, is that  
3 acceptable to you?

4 MR. NORWOOD: [REDACTED]

11:40:50

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED].

11:41:08

9 THE COURT: Well, I think you'd want all your clients  
10 dismissed, correct, Mr. Norwood?

11 MR. NORWOOD: [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED].

13 THE COURT: [REDACTED].

14 [REDACTED]

11:41:23

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] but they do it that  
19 way because there will be a public record, and they want the  
20 County to be the one that is bearing -- you know, is  
21 accountable for the settlement.

11:41:47

22 MS. KOPINSKI: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Burch, is that acceptable to  
24 you?

11:42:00

25 MR. BURCH: Yes, sir.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Norwood, that's fine for your  
2 clients?

3 MR. NORWOOD: [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED].

11:42:16

6 THE COURT: Yes, that's -- that is the understanding.  
7 Ms. Coleman, is that fine with you?

8 MS. COLEMAN: Yes, it is, your Honor.

11:42:30

9 THE COURT: Okay. And then Ms. Buntic, is that fine  
10 with you?

11 MS. BUNTIC: Yes, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

13 We have a settlement agreement. I will let Judge  
14 Coleman know that the case is settled.

11:42:40

15 Mr. Thomas, are you going to prepare the agreement  
16 itself?

17 MR. THOMAS: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: And how long will it take for the payment  
19 to be processed? I guess that depends on the finance  
20 committee meeting or --

11:42:52

21 MR. THOMAS: That's correct, your Honor. I don't  
22 have dates with me readily accessible. I do note that this  
23 historically is not a month in which the finance committee  
24 meets, so I anticipate the -- (inaudible)

11:43:14

25 MS. KOPINSKI: So we're looking at a September date?

1 MS. COLEMAN: Yes, 23rd. Can you hear me?

2 MS. KOPINSKI: No. The connection is poor.

3 THE COURT: I think she said September 23rd; is that  
4 correct?

11:43:29

5 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Yes.

7 THE COURT: So, okay, that the settlement will be  
8 considered and approved on that date, Ms. Kopinski.

11:43:41

9 MS. KOPINSKI: And there's nothing that we can do to  
10 expedite that beyond, you know, two months out.

11 MS. COLEMAN: No.

12 THE COURT: Unfortunately because they're not meeting  
13 right now, that's the problem.

14 MS. KOPINSKI: I see.

11:43:52

15 MR. BURCH: [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 MS. KOPINSKI: [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] What could expedite from  
19 our perspective?

11:44:06

20 MR. THOMAS: Neither of those. Unfortunately,  
21 neither of those things. The agreement has to be approved by  
22 the Cook County Board. They will not meet to (inaudible)  
23 until September 23rd.

11:44:24

24 So, unfortunately, that is the earliest available  
25 date on which approval can happen, and from there the check

1 will be issued from the comptroller's office. Historically in  
2 my experience that takes an additional two weeks until the  
3 check is cut, [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

11:44:46

5 [REDACTED]

6 THE COURT: So perhaps they can notify you,  
7 Ms. Kopinski, [REDACTED] once it's ready.

8 MS. KOPINSKI: Okay.

9 THE COURT: Okay?

11:44:55

10 MR. NORWOOD: [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 THE COURT: That's right.

14 MR. NORWOOD: Okay.

11:45:05

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MS. KOPINSKI: [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 THE COURT: That's right.

19 Okay. So I want to thank everyone for your time, [REDACTED]

11:45:15

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED].

22 I think the parties made a reasonable agreement to  
23 settle this case, and as I said, I will let Judge Coleman know  
24 the case is settled.

11:45:29

25 Have a good night. Thank you.



1 MS. KOPINSKI: Thank you, your Honor.

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, your Honor.

3 MS. BUNTIC: Thanks, your Honor.

4 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, your Honor.

11:45:35

5 MR. NORWOOD: Bye-bye.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 (Which were all the proceedings heard.)

8 CERTIFICATE

9 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from  
10 the video recording of proceedings in the above-entitled  
11 matter to the best of my ability, given the limitations of  
12 using a video-recording system.

13 /s/Kathleen M. Fennell

September 9, 2020

14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 Kathleen M. Fennell  
Official Court Reporter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25